OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
INSPECTIONS UNIT

ALPR Audit
3rd Quarter FY 25-26

Completed: 4-8-2026

Purpose

DOI 1110-07 outlines the management of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) and Internet Protocol camera systems. Specifically, the policy states that "All data obtained and stored through the use of ALPRs is considered a record of a criminal investigation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4 and shall be used solely for the purpose of attempting to prevent, solve, or detect violations of the law." This data is classified as criminal intelligence and is part of a criminal investigation, therefore it is not a public record. The policy also specifies the procedures for data storage and preservation. According to the policy and relevant general statutes, the ALPR system must undergo an annual audit. Additionally, the Inspections Unit is responsible for conducting quarterly audits of the ALPR systems to evaluate their usage and effectiveness.

Method

The Raleigh Police Department currently utilizes two ALPR systems, FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN. A representative from the Inspections unit maintains an administrative license to both systems for purposes of conducting periodic audits. There are five areas inspected during the quarterly audit: user accounts, devices, transactions/queries, reason codes, and outcomes. Inspection of these areas helps ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 and NCGS 20-183.32, as well as providing data on the use and effectiveness of the systems.

For this audit, a member of the Inspections Unit selects a 30-day period during the fiscal quarter and runs queries for each of the focus areas within the confines of that particular system. Not all information is available from each system due to the design of the programs.

Inspection

The Inspections Unit conducted an audit of the FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN systems. Data was pulled from each system for the month of March 2026 (3/1/26 – 3/31/26).

FLOCK

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 423 users listed as active, and 60 users were in deactivated status. 134 users had not logged in during the evaluation period, and 94 of those users hadn't logged into Flock at all in 2026. Several active users are no longer employed by the police department, and this was communicated to the RIC Lt. for review.

Devices

There are 29 active FLOCK devices, one of which is a FLEX camera that is fully operational.

Transactions

During the month of March 2026, there were a total of 4460 queries/searches of the FLOCK database. Over the past audits, the number of errors has diminished due to continued guidance and training. For those searches that did not have a case number, most contained enough information in the reason box to confirm the search was for law enforcement purposes.

Outcomes

During the month of March 2026, 31 cases were listed as being assisted or closed based on a notification from the FLOCK system. Out of those 31 cases, 12 vehicles were recovered, 16 persons were arrested or warrants issued, and 2 guns were recovered.

Vigilant LEARN

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 511 users in the database. Only 54 of those accounts were in active status, and 3 were closed; the others were either pending or inactive. 17 users have logged in during the 3rd fiscal quarter (3/1/26 – 3/31/26).

Devices

The database of cameras utilized in the Vigilant LEARN system is made up of a multitude of agencies and commercial entities all over the country. Raleigh PD does not maintain any mobile devices.

Transactions

During the month of March 2026, there were 966 queries in the Vigilant LEARN database. Only four users didn't use a case number or other identifier during their queries. To ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 C1, the nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law reported to a public law enforcement agency would need to be added in the search. A report number would also meet the minimum requirements.

Outcomes

The Vigilant LEARN system does not maintain this type of information.

Recommendations:

Please consider allowing less restrictive information to be used as a valid reason code when conducting searches with FLOCK or Vigilant. According to NCGS 132-1.4(C1), the "nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law" is an acceptable reason for an inquiry and should be included in the DOI once it is revised.

Please contact Lt. N.J. Grimaldi or Sgt. R.A. Smith with any questions or concerns.